

DECLASSIFIED  
PA/HO Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
April 21, 2005

4050

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

Tuesday - October 28, 1969

*Handwritten signature*

MEMORANDUM FOR HENRY KISSINGER

ACTION

FROM: Roger Morris *RM*

SUBJECT: Recognition of the new Somalian Regime

State has asked us to clear the attached cable instructing low-key recognition of the new military government in Somalia. The Italians and British have already recognized. The French, Germans, Ethiopians and Kenyans are about to move. Our Embassy reports that the coup leaders are likely to ask us formally in the next few days where we stand.

As you know, our intelligence is still foggy on the intentions or the exact personnel of the new regime. Even if the young officers tolerate the border detente or keep their distance from the Soviets, our relations are bound to be somewhat strained over the next few months. At worst, there could be frontier warfare with Ethiopia and a new round of the arms race in The Horn.

Yet I can't see how we could use our recognition to forestall any of these potential problems. On the contrary, snubbing the new government might only drive them faster toward a radical and belligerent posture. So far, we have escaped direct criticism, and they seem to want a continuation of the AID program.

I think the State cable strikes the right pose. We would sidle back into routine relations without public announcement, and confirm formal recognition only if the Somalis ask us.

In short, this new government is in the saddle. It might still follow a responsible policy in the region, despite its irredentist cast. We have nothing to gain -- and maybe something to lose -- by playing coy on the recognition issue when other Westerners and Africans are coming around.

Recommendation: That you clear the attached cable.

Approve cable 1 *1969* Approve \_\_\_\_\_. Speak to me \_\_\_\_.

OCT 29 1969

Attachment

*"s/s informed (Brown) cable  
cleared by Watts - 10/29, 5:45 PM"  
RM CF*

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OFFICIAL USE  
Classification

Department of State  
TELEGRAM

DICATE:  
COLLECT  
CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: Amembassy MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

INFO: Amembassy ADDIS ABABA  
Amembassy LONDON  
Amembassy NAIROBI

STATE

SUBJECT: Continuance Diplomatic Relations with New  
Government

REF. MOGADISCIO 3220, 3221

1. ~~Department has stated that the new Somali Government~~  
~~relating to international relations that the Department~~

~~xxx~~ Department hopes question continuance normal  
relations can be handled in same low key pragmatic way  
as was case Libya and as followed by U.S. in many other  
African changes of government. Embassy has continued  
routine contacts thereby facilitating return to normal  
diplomatic relations.

2. New Government has said would honor international  
agreements and evidenced control of Somalia.

DRAFTED BY:

L/AF:CRunyon:AF/E:GRBeyer

DRAFTING DATE

10-28-69

TEL. EXT.

21427

APPROVED BY:

AF - Mr. Newsom

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

CLEARANCES:

AF - Mr. Newsom

AF/P - Mr. Powell

L - Mr. Stevenson

SPRC - Mr. McCloskey

S/S -

White House -

(information)

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